

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1938,

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
WITH THAT OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR,
FOR
The Rural District of Tamworth.

WILLIAM LOWSON, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

CHARLES W. BERESFORD, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

TAMWORTH

Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Tamworth
Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Eighth Annual Report of the Rural District of Tamworth for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

SECTION A.

1. Area.

Tamworth Rural District in the County of Warwick has an area of 21,944 acres.

The chief industry is connected with coal-mining in the Warwickshire Coalfields. The other industries include the manufacture of terra-cotta, sanitary appliances and bricks.

2. Population.

The resident population for the area was estimated by the Census of 1931 as 14,151 and by the Registrar-General for 1938 as 14,350.

3. **Births.**

The number of live births registered during the year was 273 as compared with 250 for the previous year. This gives a birth-rate of 19·02 per 1,000 population.

Of the births, 135 were males and 138 females.

There were 9 illegitimate births, 5 males and 4 females.

There were 10 still-births registered, 5 males and 5 females, being a rate of 36·6 per 1,000 live births.

4. **Deaths.**

During the year 1938, 154 deaths were registered, 84 males and 70 females, making a death rate of 10·7

5. **Infant Mortality.**

Of the total number of deaths, 17 were infants under one year of age, showing an infant mortality of 60 per 1,000 live births.

		M.	F.
Legitimate	16	9	6
Illegitimate	1	1	

The causes of infant deaths as notified were as follows—

Prematurity and Debility	...	6
Pneumonia	4
Other causes	7
		—
		17
		—

The following table gives the causes of all deaths.

	All Causes.	M.	F.
1	Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2	Measles	—	—
3	Scarlet-fever	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—
6	Influenza	1	3
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	2
10	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	1	—
11	Syphilis	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease	12	8
14	Diabetes	4	2
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	4	9
16	Heart Disease	21	20
17	Aneurysm	1	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	2	3
19	Bronchitis	1	—
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	8	3
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	—	1
23	Diarrhoea etc. (two years and over)	—	—
24	Appendicitis	—	1
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	—	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver etc.	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	—
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	—
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Causes	—	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc	8	5
32	Senility	2	3
33	Suicide	2	—
34	Other Violence	2	2
35	Other Defined Diseases	6	7
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—
	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).	—	—
	Smallpox	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—
	Totals	84	70

SECTION B.

The staff consists of Medical Officer of Health, part time and a whole time Sanitary Inspector.

(1) *Laboratory Facilities.*

By arrangement between the Warwickshire County Council and the University of Birmingham, the medical practitioners in the district are enabled to utilise the laboratory at the University for all their needs.

(2) *Ambulance Facilities.*

These are adequate for the district.

(3) *Nursing in the Home.*

District nurses are employed by voluntary agencies with the help of the County Council, in all the villages of the Authority.

(4) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*

School clinics and baby clinics are held under the supervision of the Medical Officer of the County through his assistants.

(5) *Hospitals.*

There are no hospitals situated in the District.

The Tamworth General Hospital is largely used by the people of the district for acute surgical illnesses.

The Poor Law Infirmary and Institution situated in Tamworth is used to the extent of one hundred beds for Warwickshire patients suffering from chronic illnesses.

The Tamworth Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases is governed by a Joint Hospital Board, the Borough and Rural District Councils are the constituent Authorities.

SECTION C.

(1) *Water Supplies.*

A considerable portion of the district is supplied by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks from a well situated at Hopwas, and the following are the pumping records and rainfall for the past three years:—

		Well.			
	Gallons Pumped.	Highest.	Lowest.		Rainfall.
1938	188,461,000	9' 10"	3' 4"		22·89"
1937	199,487,000	13' 2"	4' 3"		25·60"
1936	194,450,100	12' 6"	3' 10"		30·81"

The District had an adequate supply for all needs throughout the year, but in consequence of the low rainfall, which was several inches lower than the two previous years, and which affected the inflow into the Well, the Joint Committee made arrangements with the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company to take a quantity up to 80,000 gallons per day during periods when the call on Hopwas supply was greatest.

Monthly analyses submitted to the County Analyst show the quality of the water to be good and suitable for a public supply, as will be seen from the following :—

The following is an analysis taken on February 14th, 1938.

Total Solid matter dried at 212°F	33·0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid	0·0028
Nitric Nitrogen	0·34
Chlorine	3·1
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	0·009
Appearance	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None
pH Value	7·4
Hardness before boiling	16·20
„ after „	7·21
Temporary Hardness	8·99

Expressed in parts per 100,000.

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

<i>Count.</i> On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.	2 colonies per ml.
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20°—22°C.	5 colonies per ml.

Coil Aerogenes Content (presumptive coli). Nil per 100 ml.
after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.

This sample shows no baeteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution.

The clause in the Ministry Report No. 71 suggests "that when a Public Water Supply contains not more than two presumptive coli per 100 ml. the sample may be regarded as reasonably satisfactory."

The parish of Kingsbury has a piped supply from three sourees, viz:—

Dumble Springs, for Kingsbury Village and Bodymoor Heath.

Baxterley, for Hurley and Whateley.

Dosthill by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks.

The parishes of Newton Regis, Austrey, Middleton and Seekington are now supplied by new mains laid down by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

The supplies of Water have been regularly analysed and found satisfactory.

(2) *Sewage Disposal.*

The greater part of the district is served by the Sewage Disposal Joint Committee.

Pumping Station. The electrically driven pumping installation at these Works continues to function according to the demand on them, and is capable of dealing with six times dry weather flow with ease.

Outfall Works. The quantity of sewage arriving at these Works both pumped and by gravitation from the Wigginton section for the year 1938 was 212,348,000, as against 292,986,750 for the previous year, the difference being accounted for by the low rainfall, which was 22·89", as against 25·60".

A good final effluent has been maintained throughout the year, and the Joint Committee are making arrangements to replace the existing sprinklers on the eight bacteria beds with a more modern type, the old ones having been in comission since the Works were erected in 1910.

Amington. The sewage works at Amington has maintained a fair effluent and the two pumping stations, Moor Lane and Pretty Pigs have been kept in good order.

Kingsbury. A fair effluent has been maintained during the year at the sewage works at Cliff, Wood End, Hurley Village and Hurley Common, and the pumping station at Kingsbury has been kept in good order.

Dosthill and Hockley. Work has been completed on a scheme of enlargement of the sewage disposal works, caused by the rapid growth of development in the Hockley area draining district to these works. The pumping station at Dosthill has been kept in good order.

(3) *Rivers.*

The rivers in the area are controlled by the Trent Catchment Board who have done a lot of work during the year, cleaning the Tame and improving the banks.

Drainage.

Improvements to existing drainage and the provisions of new drains and water closets have been carried out at various premises in every parish in the district. Builders and owners give no trouble regarding notice to inspect before covering, although the notice is sometimes very short.

House Refuse.

A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour in the parishes of Wilnecote, Glascote, Amington and Newton Regis, for which four men are regularly employed, removal being carried out by a Shelvoke & Drewry freighter. Collection in the other parishes in the District will no doubt receive further consideration in the near future, and the question of disposal by modern methods must also be considered at some future date.

The cost works out at approximately 7/- per house, per annum.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK OF DISTRICT, 1938.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated after Notice
Water Supply ...	204	97	87
Drains	320	102	98
Stables and Piggeries ...	54	22	22
Fried Fish Shops... ..	36	3	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	25	4	4
Factories	85	12	12
Petroleum and Carbide ...	42	3	3
Bakehouses	36	7	7
Public Conveniences ...	108	6	6
Smoke Observations ...	6	3	3
Refuse Collection ...	324	46	42
<i>Miscellaneous</i>			
Ashpits (accumulations, animals, foul conditions, manure etc.)	266	94	94
Canal Boats	21	13	13
<i>Under Public Health Acts</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	154	76	71
Visits paid to the above Houses	508	—	—
<i>Housing Acts.</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	320	107	98
Visits paid to the above Houses	990	—	—
<i>Overcrowding</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	42	9	9
Visits paid to the above Houses	42	—	—
Infectious Diseases ...	38	—	—
Slaughter Houses	456	17	17
Cow Sheds and Dairies ...	452	84	82
TOTALS ...	4529	705	671
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Samples of Water taken for Analysis		16	
„ „ condemned as unfit for use		7	
„ „ regarded as of good quality		9	

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Inspections have been made at various times to the few Tents, Vans, and similar structures in the district, and in 3 cases licences were granted for sites for a limited number of dwellings, and inspections made to enforce the terms of the licences.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution.

Observations for smoke abatement have been made throughout the year and visits made to prevent the nuisance as far as possible. In one case a serious nuisance resulted in a statutory notice being served and at the end of the year a new chimney stack was commenced together with the provision of a modern economiser, and the efforts of the owners of this factory to comply with the Councils requirements have cost to date £2.100.

Schools.

The sanitary accommodation at the various schools in the district is good and water supplies for both drinking and washing is available for the children and is maintained satisfactorily. Disinfectants are supplied when required and children from houses where infectious disease has arisen are promptly excluded, and in other ways the teachers give assistance in keeping down the number of cases to a minimum.

SECTION D.

Housing.

New Houses erected in 1938.

By the Rural District Council	42
By other bodies or persons in Parish of Glascote	25
	Wilnecote	...	36
	Amington	...	1
	Middleton	...	4
	Kingsbury	...	11
	Austrey	...	2
			—
	Total Houses		121
			—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) -	620
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose -	1840
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 -	126
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose -	126
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - - - - -	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation - - -	245

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices:—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	235
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—*

(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - - -	4
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners - - -	Nil
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(b) By local authority in default of owners -	Nil
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(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied -	96
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners - - -	85
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(b) By local authority in default of owners -	Nil
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(e).—Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	- - -	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	- - -	8

(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	- -	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

(a).— (i) Number of dwellings overerowed at the end of the year	- - -	Nil
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein		Nil
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	-	Nil
(b).—Number of new cases of overerowing reported during the year	- - -	1
(c).—(i) Number of cases of overerowing relieved during the year	- - -	42
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	-	328
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overerowed after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overerowing.		
(e).—Any other particulars with respect to overerowing conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.		

Housing Acts, 1936.

So far my Report has shown continued progress by the Council in the administration of the many and varied branches of Public Health, but in connection with the administration of the Housing Acts much remains to be done. A comprehensive scheme for the abatement of overerowing has been effected by the provision of houses in many

parishes but it is to be hoped that the present programme for the building of further Council Houses will provide alternative accommodation for the tenants of unfit houses. My inspections of houses in this respect will be reported periodically.

The work done during the year is shown in the Summary of Inspections.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

The provisions of this Act have been made known throughout the district and its use by owners of farm workers cottages would undoubtedly result in good reconditioned homes with reasonable expenses to the Council. Applications are anticipated in some ten known cases.

Overcrowding.

The erection of 42 Council Houses has abated the cases of overcrowding discovered by the Survey under the 1935 Act, and inspections and enquiries are being made periodically as required by the Act.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk and Dairies Order.

The number of cowsheds and dairies, and the large quantity of milk produced for despatch to Birmingham and Tamworth from this district will entail a considerable amount of work annually.

The number of premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Order is as follows :—

Wholesale	-	105
Retail	-	76

59 farmers are licensed for the production of "Accredited" Milk.

1 farmer is licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Supplementary licences have been granted to distributors whose premises are outside the District.

2 Accredited
2 Tuberculin Tested
2 Pasteurised

The standard of cleanliness, methods of production, premises, etc., is generally satisfactory and the infringements found were promptly remedied on drawing the occupier's attention to them.

There is no doubt that the regular inspections and *sampling* of milk from Accredited premises have educated the farmers to a better standard of cleanliness in production, and farmers whose bacterial counts previously were quite excessive now receive reports that are an example to any dairy.

Meat and Other Foods Inspections.

There were 13 slaughterhouses in use at the end of the year, three being registered and 10 licensed annually.

As regards cleanliness and methods of the butchers these have been found generally satisfactory and in all cases where attention has been drawn to any infringements these have been remedied forthwith. The quality of the beef, pork and mutton sold, generally speaking, is second to none.

Regular inspection of meat is carried out but owing to the wide area the whole of the meat sold is not inspected.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...					
Number inspected . . .	72	66	10	468	694
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	8	16	—	42	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis.					
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	2	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	7	12	—	—	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.					

The number of licensed slaughtermen under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act is 34.

Bakehouses

The total number of bakehouses at December, 1938 was 8, and these have been inspected and were generally found to be kept in a satisfactory condition, and any contraventions required only informal notices.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases.

(1) No disease was prevalent during the year in epidemic form. No action was taken by the authority during the year in the matter of immunisation against diphtheria.

Number of visits to premises where cases of infectious disease have been notified—38.

In the majority of cases the patients were removed to hospital, disinfection of the rooms carried out forthwith, and disinfectant supplied to the tenants. In cases of death from phthisis the houses are disinfected and cleansed thoroughly, the Council paying half the cost. In one case a Council House was disinfected, all walls and ceilings distempered, woodwork washed with disinfectant and the house cleansed thoroughly.

(2) The following table shows the number of notifiable diseases notified during the year.

	Total Cases notified.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet-fever	7	—
Diphtheria	16	—
Enteric-fever	—	—
Pneumonia	16	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—
Erysipelas	6	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1
Tuberculosis		
(1) Pulmonary	—	6
(2) Non-pulmonary	—	1
	—	—
	48	8

(3) During the year there were 59 patients admitted to the Tamworth Isolation Hospital of which number, 20 were from the Rural District of Tamworth, viz :—

Diphtheria 15

Scarlet-fever 5

(4) *Blindness.* No action was necessary.

(5) Below is a table showing new cases and mortality for Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
20	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
35	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	1	4	2	4	2	1	—

(5) *Tuberculosis.*

The County Tuberculosis Officer and Health Visitor visit patients in their homes when necessary. Patients may be admitted to Sanatoria at Groundslow, Prestwood, Brameote, Hertford Hill and certain other places.

(6) The Tamworth Rural District Council is a constituent authority of the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Board and any case occurring in the district may be removed to their Hospital at Moxley.

Public Health Act, 1936.**Canal Boats (S. 249).**

Periodical visits have been made to the various docks and wharves for the purpose of examining canal boats, and the following statements include both the inspections of my predecessor, Mr. John W. Parker, and myself since my appointment in August.

The total number of boats on the Register at the 31st December, 1938, was 125.

During the year, the cabins of 21 boats have been examined, which were registered for occupation by 69 persons, but were occupied by only 36 persons. This number is made up as follows:—

Male adults	13
Female adults	11
Children of school age	7
Children under school age	5
	—
	36
	—

The children's ages were as follows:—

One	aged	1	year.
One	aged	1	year.
Three	„	4	years.
„	„	5	„
Two	„	7	„
One	„	8	„
„	„	11	„

No boat was found to be carrying offensive cargo.

13 contraventions were met with on 6 boats, the details being as follows:—

1 Boat detained for cleansing (Not for I/D).

1 Absence of Certificate.

2 Marking.

3 Cleanliness.

1 Painting required.

1 Ventilation.

2 Dilapidation.

2 No proper water vessel.

No infectious disease was met with and therefore no boats detained for disinfection.

Petroleum Acts.

The total number of premises licenced for the storage of Petroleum at December, 1938, was :—

For Petroleum	48
For Carbide of Calcium	10
Number of Inspections	42

The total amount received from the issue of licences during 1938 was £30 : 10 : 0.

Factories Acts.

The provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, caused a number of additional inspections to be made of all the Factories in the district, and at 5 of them requests for alterations to be carried out were complied with prior to the issue of Certificate of adequate means of escape in case of fire. These included alterations to doors, marking and keeping clear all types of exits, and in one case the provision of an all-metal outer fire escape. In the majority of cases the factories are engaged in the manufacture of bricks, terra-cotta, stoneware, sanitary appliances and similar products and the risk of fire is not great, but in all cases the owners were most willing to comply with the requirements of the Act.

As regards the provision of facilities for the taking of meals, storage of cycles and clothing, some of the factories are adequately provided and in one case such facilities are a model for any factory, but further visits will be made in this respect.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	48	4	—
Factories without mechanical power	16	2	—
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	4	—	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories Total	68	6	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	9	9	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) {	unsuitable or defective	6	6	—
	insufficient	4	4	—
	not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences	1	1	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total	22	22	—	—

Offensive Trades.

There are no statutory offensive trades except those of Fish Frying, of which there are 15 licensed. These have been periodically inspected and the notice of the occupiers drawn to any lack of cleanliness, etc., and in all cases these received attention after informal notice.

We are Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM LOWSON, M.B.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

CHARLES W. BERESFORD,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

